

## Have Your Say

The draft Coastal Erosion Emergency Action Subplan will be on public exhibition from Tuesday 22 Nov to Monday 12 Dec 2011. You can view and/or make comments on the document:

- at the Mona Vale Customer Service Centre (1 Park St, Mona Vale) and Avalon Customer Service Centre (59A Old Barrenjoey Rd, Avalon);
- on the Pittwater Council website: <http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/exhibition>
- by emailing [catchment@pittwater.nsw.gov.au](mailto:catchment@pittwater.nsw.gov.au)
- by writing to Council at PO BOX 882 Mona Vale NSW 1660
- attending a community information briefing from 4:00 – 4:30 pm on Tuesday, 29 Nov 2011 in the Conference Room at Council Offices, 1 Park St Mona Vale

If you have any specific questions about how the new laws affect you as a property-owner, you can also speak to a Council Officer in the Catchment Management and Climate Change team. Please call the Council on (02) 9970 1111 during business hours.

## How do I know when serious erosion is likely?

The Bureau of Meteorology issues severe weather warnings when damaging waves or storm surge conditions are anticipated. These warnings are regularly broadcast in the media and at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

The SES suggests the following actions when a severe weather warning for damaging surf or storm surge conditions is issued:

- Keep an active watch on the situation
- Stay away from areas exposed to surf
- Keep in contact with your neighbours
- Stay tuned to a local radio station for updates
- Be prepared to evacuate if the situation worsens
- Follow instructions of the emergency services
- If you require assistance call the SES on 132 500
- **For life threatening emergencies call 000**



## For more information

**Contact:** Catchment Management and Climate Change Team

**Postal Address:** PO Box 882, Mona Vale, NSW 1660

**Phone:** 02 9970 1111

**Fax:** 02 9970 1200

**Email:** [catchment@pittwater.nsw.gov.au](mailto:catchment@pittwater.nsw.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/coastal\\_zone](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/coastal_zone)

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# Coastal Erosion Emergency Action Information

Bilgola Beach and Mona Vale Basin Beach



# Background

## Coastal Hazards

“Coastal communities and local councils are facing difficult issues associated with coastal erosion along the NSW coastline. This issue is not new: records show coastal properties being affected by coastal erosion dating back to the 1940s. However the projections for sea level rise and increased storm activity and the desire of ever more people to live and build close to the coast, has the potential to increase this risk considerably.” *NSW Government Office of Environment & Heritage.*

Storm surge in NSW occurs as a result of intense low pressure systems off shore of the NSW coast. The storms can generate strong winds, large waves and elevated ocean water levels along the Pittwater Coastline. These conditions can result in extensive erosion along sandy beaches and frontal dunes or slope instability, and seawater inundation where waves can go over coastal dunes or sea defence barriers.



The NSW Government has introduced several reforms to the way in which councils and landowners are required to manage coastal erosion. These changes identify preparatory actions landowners may be able to undertake to protect properties during a storm. This information sheet briefly explains the changes and how they affect you.

## Coastal Erosion Emergency Action Subplans

The NSW Government has identified two ‘hot spot’ beaches in the Pittwater Council area; Bilgola Beach and Mona Vale Basin Beach.

Pittwater Council is preparing what is called a ‘draft Coastal Erosion Emergency Action Subplan’ for these two affected beaches. The draft Subplan will be presented to the Council at its meeting on 21 November 2011 and subsequently placed on public exhibition for comment.

The draft Subplan outlines how Council will manage a coastal erosion emergency and explains how beachfront property owners can protect their property through short term (sand/sand bags) or long term protection works.

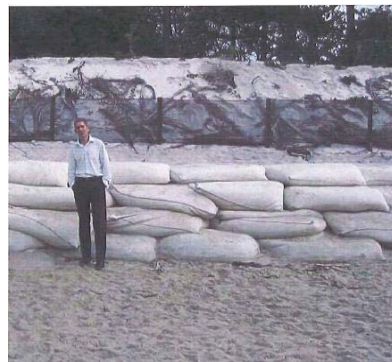


Photo - M Sharpin, DECCW

## What this means for you?

There are potentially three voluntary options available to landowners on the affected beaches and for each option the landowner is responsible for all the costs of implementing the option.

- Apply for short term protection works utilising sand or sand bags (Certificate required).
- Apply for short or long term protection works utilising other materials (Development Application)
- Make no changes (do nothing).

Most properties within the two affected beaches have some form of existing protection works (rockwall/seawall). These properties are not eligible for short term protection works utilising sand or sand bags. Landowners eligible for these works will need to apply for a certificate from the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage and upon approval, place the sand/sand bags well before a severe storm event and remove the sand/sand bags within 12 months of construction. The majority of properties are not eligible for this option as they already have protection works in place.

Most residents have existing coastal protection works (rockwall/seawall). The draft Coastal Erosion Emergency Action Subplan provides details on the process landowners should follow to undertake short or long term protection works to a higher design standard:

- engage a suitably qualified engineer to assess the level of protection of your property including any environmental impacts
- undertake a development application
- submit the development application to the NSW Coastal Panel for approval

The NSW Coastal Panel is a group of experts that provide advice to councils on coastal issues and consider and determine applications for coastal protection work.

Please note that fines of up to \$250,000 can apply for unauthorised works.

## Useful Information

To read more about coastal zone management, coastal erosion or view related documents and websites please visit [www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/natural\\_hazards](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/natural_hazards)

The NSW Office of Environment & Heritage has details of the relevant legislation, guiding documents, frequently asked questions and coastal zone management definitions on their website: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/index.htm>

*Note: All black and white images were taken by Mr Gordon Sharp and are courtesy of Mona Vale Library Local Studies Unit.*